The width of the path is very irregular, varying from one city block near the center of Nashville to slightly over a mile at a point 8 miles east of the city, then narrowing to only a hundred yards or so within a very short distance. At Lebanon the path was about 200 yards wide. The wider the path, the less destruction, in all cases. At the widest point the destruction was confined largely to the topping of trees, although some buildings near the center of the area exploded due to the decrease in pressure.

It was decided that only one tornado occurred in the counties named; and that it was a true funnel type tornado cloud, traveling in an easterly direction approximately 35 miles an hour, pulsating earthward with the apex swinging perpendicularly across the path.

Evidences of tornadic action were so plain and so numerous that no one questioned the true nature of the storm. A 2- by 4-inch timber was driven endwise into the east slope of the roof of the writer's home, clearly the result of a counterclockwise wind blowing into a vortex. At many places in the beautifully wooded portions of East Nashville uprooted trees along the outer edges of the whirl, of which there were hundreds, lay practically at right angles to the direction of the storm's path and toward the center. Hundreds of buildings showed the explosive effect of the storm—roofs lifted and walls blown outward. Many of these were completely demolished. Frame structures succumbed to the fury of the storm more readily than brick and stone, but the latter were by no means spared. Wreckage of many large brick buildings occurred and the damage was great. Notable among such examples were the brick buildings on the square and those just across the river, already referred to, the new East Nashville High School, where the roof of the large gymnasium was lifted off, and the new Bailey High School, which was more than half wrecked. It was observed that walls or roofs inclosing large rooms almost invariably gave way first under the unusual pressure, such pressure exerting full force against the outer inclosures instead of being divided by inside partitions. Numbers of persons in the storm area experienced difficulty in hearing and suffered discomfort in their ears for several days after the storm, due to the suddenly reduced pressure.

The tornado killed 11 persons in Nashville and injured scores of others. The small loss of life was one of its remarkable features, considering the fact that it traversed an area occupied by about 10,000 persons. The property damage included 1,400 homes, of which 1,100 were frame structures and 300 brick or stone; also 16 churches, 36 stores, 5 factories, 4 schools, 1 library, and 1 lodge hall. Some of the best residences of East Nashville were among the damaged list. The property loss within the city, exclusive of trees, automobiles, and other personal property, was estimated at $1,450,000, and in the suburbs $150,000. Loss of personal property is estimated at $400,000. This tornado killed four persons in Lebanon and caused property damage of about $125,000. Its total loss of life was 15 persons and the total property loss probalby $2,200,000.

The writer, who was near the center of the storm's path on Eastland Avenue, fortunately (for him) did not attempt to observe the storm's approach, for a look out a rear door or window might have cost him his life. During the terrifying half minute when walls, roofs, chimneys, garages, and trees were crashing only a few yards away and his own house was quivering under the pressure and was partially demolished, he and his family were in the front of the house and were unharmed, in spite of a feeling of intense expectancy. Numbers of his neighbors, however, were less fortunate. Some were crushed in the wreckage and others were blown out with the walls, landing in adjoining yards. If it were possible to keep doors and windows open during such a blow, relieving somewhat the inside pressure, the walls and roof of a building might not suffer, but the contents, including the occupants themselves, would be sucked into the open and made targets for flying debris.

Many interesting and freakish things occurred, the following being observed by the writer:

A corn stalk was found driven endwise through a piece of weather boarding.

A 2- by 4-inch timber plunged through a panel door without causing the slightest splitting or splintering. The timber fit the opening perfectly.

A 1- by 6-inch plank was forced through the trunk of a sturdy young tree, splitting the tree in half.

A high-tension tower was bent to the ground in a tangled mass without breaking loose from its concrete moorings.

It is not believed that this tornado was as violent as many that have occurred in other States, nor even in Tennessee for that matter, else the loss of life and property would have been much greater. Its significance lies in the fact that it pierced the heart of one of our large cities.

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C. FITZHUGH TALMAN, in Charge of Library

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